United Nations E/C.2/2009/2/Add.1

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
23 September 2008

Original: English

Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations
2009 regular session
19-28 January 2009

Quadrennial reports for the period 2003-2006 submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council through the Secretary-General pursuant to Council resolution 1996/31*

Note by the Secretary-General

Contents

		Page
1.	International Real Estate Federation	2
2.	International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade	3
3.	Women's Human Rights International Association	5
4.	World Association of Industrial and Technology Research Organizations	8
5.	World Conference of Religions for Peace	11

* Reports submitted by non-governmental organizations are issued without formal editing.

08-51697 (E) 211108

1. International Real Estate Federation (Special; 1995)

FIABCI is the International Real Estate Federation formed in 1948 based in Paris, France, also maintaining a sub-secretariat office in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. FIABCI is a worldwide network open to all professionals, in all disciplines, involved in the real estate property industry. FIABCI operates chapters in 65 countries, embracing over 3,200 individual and company members, 25 academic members, and 100 national associations with over 1.5 million individual real estate professionals globally. Since 1954, our Federation has played a significant role representing the real estate industry at the United Nations. FIABCI maintains its Special Consultative Status with The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and now represents the United Nations Economic Commissions in all five of its worldwide regions. In cooperation with the HABITAT Agenda and the committee on Human Settlements, FIABCI addresses housing, social and environmental issues as a means of aiding the United Nations in its efforts to provide society with optimal solutions for its needs.

FIABCI promotes the United Nations through its newsletter, FIABCI Press, through brochures and articles published in eleven languages, and through website hyper-links. United Nations activities were highlighted at the four annual FIABCI World Congresses held in May of each year Oslo, Norway (2001), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (29-31 May 2002), Berlin, Germany (25-30 May 2003) and Houston, Texas, United States of America (24-29 May 2004).

In addition, regional meetings were organized and held in:
(a) Montevideo, Uruguay (19-21 September 2002); (b) Sao Paulo, Brazil (24-27 August 2003; (c) Taichung City, Taiwan Province of China (24-27 September 2003); (d) Porto, Portugal, FIABCI's European Study Days, (3-5 October 2002); (e) Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation, FIABCI's European Congress, (30 September-2 October 2004).

The meetings covered topics relevant to sustainable urban and rural development, including the environment and legal issues, housing for the elderly, affordable housing, governance, slum settlements and private property rights. All meetings included professional panels and educational programs covering all aspects of the global real estate industry. All meetings provided simultaneous translations into the five official FIABCI languages.

Our FIABCI representatives and delegates have actively participated at all United Nations Conferences and Forums dealing with real estate issues. FIABCI members have recently attended and participated in the following international programs: Task Force 8, "How to Improve the Lives of 100 Million Slum Dwellers", by appointment of The Secretary General, Kofi Annan; The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg, South Africa; The United Nations Crime Congress in Bangkok, Thailand; United Nations Economic Commission for Europe's (UNECE) "Private Property Rights For The Poor" held in Rome, Italy, and the World Urban Forum 2004 in Barcelona, Spain: attendance by Mr. Eychner at the second World Urban Forum of United Nations Habitat 13-17 September 2004 in Barcelona, Spain. FIABCI member Mr. Enrico Campagnoli gave a speech at that Forum. Both Messrs. Eychner and Campagnoli represented FIABCI in its capacity as special consultant to the United Nations on real property matters.

FIABCI members spoke and participated in numerous panels and programs with the United Nations, including World HABITAT Day 2002, 2003 and 2004.

Mr. Eychner gave a speech on 4 October 2004 in New York City for the Annual United Nations World Habitat Day regarding FIABCI and the Global Housing Foundation.

Mr. Eychner attended the Economic and Social Council meetings in New York City from November 2004 to May 2005, in his capacity as permanent FIABCI representative to the Economic and Social Council in New York City.

The United Nations Habitat Commission recognized our Federation's work in Brussels in 2003 by rewarding the prestigious "Scroll of Honour" to our FIABCI Honorary Deputy World President, Mr. E. Rene Frank, for his "dedication to low-cost housing as a leading member of FIABCI (the International Real Estate Federation)." Mr. Frank, together with our Federation, established the Global Housing Foundation, which works to improve slum settlements. The Global Housing Foundation's first project began in Managua, Nicaragua. The scope of the Foundation work is being expanded now to other Central American countries; a project is also under study for housing improvements along the Tsunami affected coast of Sri Lanka.

The FIABCI United Nations representative maintains membership in the NGO committee on Human Settlements, which continues to monitor and work with the agenda of the United Nations Habitat office. FIABCI members have recently held both the office of President and the office of Treasurer on the committee.

2. International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade (Special; 2003)

PART I Introduction

i. The Objects of this organization shall be to stimulate in all countries a public opinion favourable to permanent peace and prosperity for all peoples, through the progressive removal of the basic economic causes of poverty and war, as these causes are demonstrated in the writings of Henry George. Specifically, towards the realization of these objects, the Union favours the raising of public revenues by public collection of the rental value of land apart from improvements and the abolition of taxes, tariffs, or imposts of every sort that interfere with the free production and exchange of wealth.

ii. On 20 July 2005 the IU received from the estate of Joseph Thompson, past president of the organisation, a legacy in the amount of US$515,093.68. These new funds are allowing the IU to engage in a raised level of activity: to transform itself into an active and outgoing professional organisation; to adopt new systems of operation necessary for its proper governance in its new heightened state of existence; to appoint its General Secretary to a part-time executive position; to invite project proposals for broad project plans and specific project activity in support of its objectives.

PART II: Contribution to the work of the United Nations

i. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings

1. Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-12) 14–30 April 2004 New York. IU Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) representative spoke on panel on theme of tax incentives for sustainable development.

2. World Urban Forum (Habitat), 13–17 September 2004, Barcelona, Spain. Delegate spoke on a panel on the topic of land value taxation.

3. International Conference on Tax Matters at United Nations, Geneva, December 2005. One IU United Nations NGO representative participated.

4. Department of Public Information Annual Conference, 7–9 September 2005, New York. Three representatives participated.

5. World Urban Forum (Habitat), 19–23 June 2006, Vancouver, Canada. Four IU NGO representatives participated. Delegate spoke at the Global Land Tool Network round table on relevance of land value taxation to Millennium Development Target of improving the living conditions of one hundred million slum dwellers by 2015.

6. United Nations conference on the Eradication of Poverty, New York, September 2006. One IU United Nations NGO representative participated.

7. International Conference for the Reform of International Institutions at ILO (International Labour Organisation) Geneva, November 2006. One IU United Nations NGO representative participated.

8. Commission on the Status of Women, 26–28 February 2007, New York. Two IU NGO representatives participated.

9. DPI/NGO Annual Orientation Program, 21–22 March 2007, New York. Two IU NGO representatives participated.

10. Habitat NGO caucus meets once a month in New York, which was regularly attended by IU NGO representative.

ii. Cooperation with United Nations Bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

IU affiliate member organization, Earth Rights Institute, received a $20,000 contract from the Habitat Global Land Tool Network for development of GLTN Tool on land value taxation. The program is to

be completed by the end of August 2007 and will include informational brochures, an online course and calculator, and other explanatory documents. The program is to address the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) of poverty eradication and, in particular, the target to significantly improve the lives of one hundred million slum dwellers by year 2015. As umbrella membership organisation, the IU provides hands-off support to the Earth Rights Institute. The two co-directors of the Earth Rights Institute have been appointed by the IU's Executive Committee as IU Representatives to Economic and Social Council and in that capacity have agreed to act in accordance with the objects of the IU quoted above.

iii. Initiatives undertaken in support of international agreed development goals, in particular the Millennium Development Goals - Activities in Support of Global Principles

IU affiliate member organization African Center for Geoclassical Economics has launched a proposal for the Bayelsa State Oil Fund Commission. The purpose of the proposed Commission is to assure transparency and participatory democracy in the utilization of oil rent funds, to assure their use for sustainable development, poverty eradication and conflict reduction in Nigeria's second-largest oil-producing state. As umbrella membership organisation, the IU provides hands-off support to the African Center for Geoclassical Economics.

3. Women's Human Rights International Association
(Special; 1999)

Activities (period 2003-2006):

From 2003 to 2006, two representatives were permanently assigned to the United Nations office in Geneva, Switzerland. They participated in a variety of sessions and conferences. More specifically, they participated in the Commission on the Human Rights and Human Rights Council meetings in Geneva, Switzerland.

2003: The United States of America representative of the Women's Human Rights International Association (WHRIA) participated in the 47th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) meeting, 3 – 14 March, New York Headquarters. Behjat Dehghan was a member of the linkage caucus. She also worked in collaboration of Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO) in lobbying and organizing sessions. Additionally, she headed the discussion on "stoning as a form of religious violence against women" to be included in the document, and actively lobbied for the issue.

International Women's Day, 8 March 2003, Brussels: In observance of the International Women's Day and with assistance from the office of the honourable Parliamentarian Romdhani Mahfoudha, a conference was organized in the Brussels Parliament. The WHRIA played an active role in this successful event. The conference topics focused on efforts against fundamentalism. Women from various countries including Turkey, Belgium, and the Islamic Republic of Iran contributed to the conference and examined the struggle against fundamentalism.

2004: Behjat Dehghan **the United States of America representative of the WHRIA participated in the 48th session of the CSW meetings, 1 – 12 March, New York Headquarters.** She took several courses on the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality. These courses were offered by the Smithsonian Museum during the 48th session. She also was one of the members of the linkage caucus.

Participation in the World Forum on Human Rights, Nantes, France (organized by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), 16-19 May 2004): WHRIA hosted a round table on the issue of women. This represented the only forum at the conference that focused on women's issues and thus attracted a lot of attention. The forum, titled "Women, Fundamentalism, and Human Rights" was attended by 6 women participants from France, Algeria, Tunisia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The event program is available on the UNESCO website.

Solidarity with Iraqi women (13 August 2004): A meeting on the condition of women in Iraq was organized. The attendees included notable Iraqi women's rights activists such as Mrs. Betty Bricho and Soraya Barzanjani. One hundred and twenty individuals attended this meeting which was held in the Premiere Classe Hotel in Cergy, France. They listened to discussions and analysis on the every day difficulties of today's Iraqi women. More specifically, fundamentalism and its pivotal role in perpetuating the problems for women in Iraq as well as the issue of combating fundamentalism in line with International Human Rights Convention goals were examined.

International Human Rights Day, 10 December: Along with 10 other human rights advocacy organizations, a three day conference in Tapis Rouge Hall in Paris, France was attended to commemorate the International Human Rights Day, 10-12 December 2004.

This event and the accompanying women's workshop were organized by the WHRIA. Human and women's rights issues were discussed and analyzed. The workshop focused on the global nature and applicability of the International Deceleration of Human Rights. A number of speeches were presented on this issue. Specifically, the presentations reiterated that countries do not have the right to use religion or local customs as reasons to limit women's rights.

2005: Participated in Beijing +10 – Two European members of WHRIA have actively participated in Beijing +10, March 2005, New York Headquarters.

Representative of the WHRIA participated in the 49th session of the CSW, 28 February – 11 March, New York Headquarters.

Her activities were as follows:

1. Organizing a workshop titled, Islamic fundamentalism and Women
2. Implementation of Beijing Platform for action in Palestine.
3. Active member of the linkage caucus

4. Worked as a volunteer to help the Nongovernmental Organization Committee of New York to organize the side events

Active participation and sponsorship of the "Marche Mondiale des Femmes." Marseille, France (28 May 2005): On this date, members and activists of the organization participated in a large peaceful march. WHRIA was not only one of the sponsors of this international women's march, but also actively participated in it.

International day for Elimination of Violence against Women (26 November 2005): Joined by two other women's rights organizations, a conference was organized to observe the International day for Elimination of Violence against Women, 25 November. The event took place in the Espaces du parc Saint Christophe, in the outskirts of Paris, France.

Entitled, **"violence against women: a crime against humanity"**, the event hosted speakers from the United States, France, Italy, Spain, and the United Kingdom. Discussions centered on methods and means utilized to perpetuate violence against women and explored options to combat such violence. About 200 people participated in this conference.

2006: Representative of the WHRIA participated in the 50th session of the CSW, 27 February – 10 March, New York Headquarters.

Her activities were as follows:

1. She organized two side events to screen two documentary films on prostitution in Islamic countries called UTOPIA and female political prisoners called Black Swan.

2. She was an active member of the Linkage Caucus and helped with lobbing as well as the outcome document.

3. She assisted the NGO Committee of the CSW, based in New York, to organize side events.

International Women's Day - CNIT – La Defense – Paris, France (26 February 2006): WHRIA joined eight other women's organizations to hold a conference titled: **"Women's Leadership: Indispensable to the Struggle against Fundamentalism."** Seven hundred attendees participated in this gathering in which 16 speakers from four continents explored women's leadership topics.

International day for Elimination of Violence against Women. Paris, France (24 November 2006): The meeting was addressed by three prominent women activists from Cameroon, Algeria, and the Islamic Republic of Iran. Their presentations dissected the topic and offered ways to confront the roots of such violence. The event entitled "Femmes face aux différents types de violences" was attended to by approximately 50 individuals.

4. World Association of Industrial and Technology Research Organizations (Special; 1991)

The World Association of Industrial and Technological Research Organizations (WAITRO) is an independent, non-governmental and not-for-profit association established in 1970 to promote and encourage co-operation among industrial and technological research and development organizations (RTOs). WAITRO aims "to be an enabler for developing action oriented partnerships among member organizations for sustainable development".

The year 2003-2006 was a cornerstone in the development of WAITRO, and it marked the beginning of a targeted push towards active sharing of expertise and best practices, and collaboration among members. As a global network with 70% of it members from developing nations, WAITRO also embarked on the implementation of capability building projects, which aimed to enhance the technological competence of members to support their local industries.

During the years, capacity-building workshops, seminars and conferences were jointly organized with international agencies and members in various regions. The workshops and seminars focused on topics of interest in the countries where they were held. The workshops and conferences were:

- Workshop on Technology-based Business Incubators in Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries was held from 24 - 28 February 2003 at the International Conference Centre, Mauritius. It was organized as a collaborative effort with Commonwealth Science Council and the Small and Medium Industries Development Organization.
- A workshop on rapid prototyping manufacturing in Cairo, Egypt from 10 – 14 October 2004.
- A workshop on Developing Market-Driven Research and Development (R&D) in Berhad, Malaysia was held from 30 November –3 December 2004.
- International Conference on "Plastics and Environment – Opportunities and Challenges" at India International Centre, New Delhi, India, on 24 – 25 February 2003.
- A Workshop on Knowledge Management in Research and Technology Organizations which was held on 6 – 8 December 2004 in Bali, Indonesia.
- Training Course on Functional Foods for Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Countries on 22 November – 4 December 2004 at Bandung, Indonesia.
- WAITRO and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) jointly organized a 4-day Intensive Workshop on Significance of Testing and Conformity Assessment in Global Trade – Challenges for Research & Technology Organizations (RTOs), Berhad, Malaysia from 18 – 22 April 2005.
- A Regional Seminar on Developing Global Competitiveness – Technology, Innovation and Enterprise Development, from 26 - 28 July 2005 in Trinidad and Tobago.

- An Expert Group Meeting was jointly organized with UNIDO from 16 – 17 January 2006 in Malaysia with the objective to develop a framework to strengthen the standards and conformity assessment infrastructure in the developing countries.
- New Trends in Mineral Processing Workshop was jointly organized by Central Metallurgical Research and Development Institute (CMRDI), Egypt, from 22 – 25 January 2006.
- On the 27-28 February 2006, a group of 24 members and potential members of WAITRO attended a "Best Practices Workshop on RTO management" in the form of a Study Tour to VIMTA Labs Ltd. in Hyderabad in India.
- In collaboration with the Global Research Alliance, successfully organized a workshop on Science and Technology-based Water Scenarios for Sub-Saharan Africa held from 27 – 29 March 2006 in Windhoek, Namibia.
- Capacity-Building of RTOs in Good Laboratory Practice was initiated in 2006 to strengthen the capability of testing laboratories in RTOs through the implementation of good laboratory practices as embodied in international standard International Organization for Standardization (ISO) International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) 17025.
- Training of Extension Agents and Establishing Outreach Centres was initiated in 2006 to assist member organizations establish outreach centres for Small and Medium-size Enterprises (SMEs).

In efforts to enhance its visibility, WAITRO presented papers at various international fora. They were:

- NEPAD (New Partnership for Africa's Development) workshop on Science and Technology was held in Johannesburg, South Africa, on 17 - 19 February 2003
- World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)-Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) Joint Seminar on Regional National System of Innovation: Intellectual Property, on 1 – 3 October 2003 in Santiago, Chile.
- The Fifth West Lake International Conference on Small and Medium Business, China, held at the Zhejiang University of Technology from 1 – 3 November 2003.
- 7th session United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development, organized by United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) on 24 –28 May 2004 in Geneva, Switzerland
- 2nd Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Ministerial Conference on SMEs, Istanbul, Turkey from 3 – 5 June 2004
- 2nd Iranian Conference On Science & Technology Parks And Incubators organized by Khorasan Science & Technology Park on 1-3 March 2005 in Mashad, Islamic Republic of Iran
- International Network for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (INSME) 2005 International Conference on International Cooperation to Seize Innovation Opportunities for SMEs in Barcelona, Spain on 13-15 April 2005

- Ministerial Forum on Technology Support and Capacity-Building for Africa's Sustainable Development, 4 – 8 May 2005 in Dakar, Senegal
- 8th Session of the Commission on Sciences and Technology for Development, organized by UNCTAD from 23 – 27 May 2005, Geneva, Switzerland
- Science and Technology (S&T) Policy Development in SADC member states and the African region on 28 June - 1 July 2005 in Windhoek, Namibia
- 2nd Science Congress and Sub Committee Conference on Infrastructure and Resource Development during Seventh ASEAN Science and Technology Week in Jakarta, Indonesia from 5 – 12 August 2005
- Regional Symposium on Promoting University-Industry Collaboration through Technology Transfer and Internet Protocol (IP) Transactions in ASEAN Countries on 18 to 20 January 2006 at Singapore.
- OECD Global Conference on "Better Financing for Entrepreneurship and SME Growth" took place in Brasilia, Brazil from 27-30 March 2006. The 4th Brazilian Association of the Institutes of Technological Research (ABIPTI) Congress held in Brazil, Sao Paulo from 2-5 May 2006, explored the topic "Competitiveness and National Wealth: the Role of Institutes of Research in the National System of Science and Technology."
- Shenzhen International Workshop on Renewable Energy and Investment (RETI) and the BlueSky Award 2006 was held from 12-17 October 2006 in Shenzhen, China.
- International session of Scientific Research Outlook (SRO) "SRO & Technology Development in the Arab World" from 11 - 14 December 2006 at Umayyad Palace, Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic.

A Biennial Congress and Networking Sessions have been organized for members to keep abreast with latest developments in current areas of interests, for member organizations to network with each other, and provide avenues for business opportunities in collaborative projects.

- 17th Biennial Congress on "Technologies for Sustainable Development", 5 - 11 September 2004, Nairobi, Kenya
- Networking Session on Quality and Performance in RTOs – 10 March 2004, Colombo, Sri Lanka
- SME Development through Technology & Quality – 22 – 23 February 2005, Cairo, Egypt
- International Conference on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) as an Enabling Tool for Sustainable Development – Challenges and Opportunities for research and Technological Organizations. 29-30 August 2005 in New Delhi, India
- Improving Organizational Performance in SMEs through ICT and Testing and Conformity Assessment for Global Trade were held from 22 – 24 March 2006 at Cascadia Hotel and Conference Centre, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.

- The 17th General Assembly and Biennial Congress was successfully held from 8 – 10 August 2006 at Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. The event with 'The Business of Innovation' as the conference theme was hosted by Saskatchewan Research Council (SRC) and co-sponsored by International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and WAITRO.

WAITRO will strive towards achieving its mission through partnership among members from both developed and developing nations on collaborative projects to meet development challenges. It will also work to strengthen capability of its member organizations, especially those from developing nations for them to be able to provide relevant services to meet national needs. The goal is for WAITRO to be an enabler for developing action-oriented partnerships among member organizations for sustainable development.

5. World Conference of Religions for Peace
(General; 1995)

PART I. Introduction

World Conference of Religion for Peace (Religions for Peace) is a growing global network that advances common action among the world's religious communities for peace. Through more than seventy inter-religious councils and groups, networks of religious youth and women of faith, and a World Council of religious leaders comprising the world's largest and most representative coalition of religious communities, *Religions for Peace* creates effective multi-religious partnerships to transform violent conflict, eradicate poverty, promote just and harmonious societies, and protect the earth.

ii) Significant Changes: expanded its geographic impact significantly when it formed the African Council of Religious Leaders in 2003 and the Latin American and Caribbean Council of Religious Leaders in 2006. Also, the organization changed its name from the "World Conference on Religion and Peace" to the "World Conference of Religions for Peace" (WCRP) during this reporting period.

PART II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

I) Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings.

2004: Representatives attended meetings with diplomats at the United Nations for international action to prevent further loss of life among the Sudanese in Darfur and those who had fled to refugee camps in Chad. It also advocated for the end of the genocide and for refugee assistance.

Representatives advocated directly through written statements with all 191 Member States at the United Nations Headquarters in its efforts to stop the proliferation of nuclear weapons, urging their support for an effective nuclear weapons non-proliferation regime. This action was timed to coincide with a major United Nations review conference on the issue in 2-27 May 2005.

Conference on Interfaith Cooperation for Peace 22 June 2005, United Nations Headquarters, New York. WCRP attended and participated actively in a panel discussion, "Exploring strategies to enhance interfaith cooperation for sustainable peace."

United Nations Commission on Status of Women. Attend each year. On 7-11 March 2005 New York, organized the event "International Women's Day Observance."

United Nations NGO Conflict Prevention Conference 19-21 July 2005, New York. Attended and participated on the theme "Civil Society forging partnerships to prevent violent conflicts and build peace."

United Nations Annual Department of Public Information (DPI)/NGO Conference. New York. Attended each year.

International Congress on Religions and Cultural Diversity, 17-21 December 2006, Barcelona, Spain. Organized by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Attended and participation in conference about Mediation towards Social Cohesion in Urban Areas.

ii) Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters.

2003: Partnership with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) to develop the publication: *What Religious Leaders Can do About HIV/AIDS: Actions for Children and Young People.* The organization also expanded its work with children and HIV/AIDS to South Asia. The *South Asian Inter-Faith Pledge on Children, Young People and HIV/AIDS: Prevention, Care and Compassion.* December 2003. *Religions for Peace* made an information toolkit for the participants; it also made a conference on a global overview of inter-faith responses to HIV/AIDS prevention and care: practical experiences.

2004: *Religions for Peace* entered into a long-term partnership with UNICEF to facilitate collaboration between UNICEF and the *Religions for Peace* network. This partnership addressed a wide range of child-related issues affecting Asia, Africa and Latin America.
This included a joint study on the Response by Faith-Based Organizations to Orphans and Vulnerable Children and (OVC), in 2006, a Study on Violence Against Children report that was presented to the United Nations General Assembly.

Inaugural meeting of the South Asia Inter-religious Council on HIV/AIDS 19-21 November 2004. Co-sponsored with UNICEF, which brought together over 30 senior religious leaders from that region to initiate their joint work in responding to the growing problem of AIDS.

Pan-African Forum on Building Trust for Immunization and Child Survival with Religious and Traditional Leaders and the Media Conference, 19 October 2004, Dakar, Senegal, co-sponsored with UNICEF, brings together over 200 senior leaders to strengthen engagement and partnerships on child survival issues.

2006: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) AIDS Conference 6-11 November 2006, Cairo, Egypt. Participated on the Second Regional Religious Leaders Forum in Response to UNDP's HIV/AIDS, organized by HIV/AIDS Regional Program in the Arab States (HARPAS) under the auspices of the League of Arab States.

iii) Initiatives undertaken by the organization in support of internationally agreed development goals, in particular, the Millennium Development Goals.

Religions for Peace contributed to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the following geographical regions: Central America, South America, Europe, Africa and Asia. The following major actions have been undertaken:

- **Goal 3. Promote gender equality and empower women**

Religions for Peace Women's Mobilization Program convened consultative meetings for the women of faith to discuss the manifestations of violence and to highlight opportunities, gains, challenges and constraints facing the women from different countries. The following took place:

2006: Consultations in Kyoto, Japan, 24-25 August; Nairobi, Kenya, 15 March; and United Republic of Tanzania, 25-25 February.

2005: Meetings in Tirana, Albania, 16-19 November; Buenos Aires, Argentina, 7-8 November; Lima, Peru, 8-9 September; Monrovia, Liberia, 1-5 August; Accra, Ghana, 30 July; and Bangalore, India, 16-17 May.

- **Goals 4 and 6. Reduce child mortality and combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases**

2006: Religions for Peace VIII World Assembly, 26-29 August, Kyoto, Japan. *Religions for Peace* gave support to mobilizing the international community through the United Nations Study on Violence against Children to address these critical issues. The organization works in partnership with governments, United Nations agencies, and other civil society actors to implement the recommendations of this study.

2004: Teams from different countries were trained in media relations and advocacy techniques designed to combat the stigma and discrimination associated with HIV/AIDS: Nairobi, Kenya, 27-30 March; Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania; 4-7 November, Uganda, 27 March; and Lusaka, Zambia, 11-12 December.

- Small grants to more than 100 local faith-based organizations/congregations for OVC programs in Kenya, Malawi, and Uganda assist more than 30,000 children and train more than 1,000 religious leaders.
- *Religions for Peace* convenes a satellite session at the International AIDS Conference in Bangkok on "Religious Leaders' Role in Combating Stigma and Discrimination."
- The inaugural meeting of the South Asia Inter-religious Council on HIV/AIDS, co-sponsored with UNICEF, brings together 30 senior religious leaders from South Asia to respond to the problem of HIV/AIDS.

2003: The XIIIth International Conference on AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) in Africa, *Religions for Peace* convenes a satellite session on religious leaders and HIV/AIDS stigma and discrimination, a panel with United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) on religion, women and HIV/AIDS, and launches the report of its joint study with UNICEF, "Study of the Response of Faith-Based Organizations to Orphans and Vulnerable Children, 21-26 September, Nairobi, Kenya.

Activities in Support of Global Principles

2006: Religions for Peace VIII World Assembly, 24-29 August, Kyoto, Japan. *Religions for Peace* forge partnerships with religious communities to achieve the Millennium Development Goals to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, combat disease, and advance sustainable development. Also, United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan made a statement to the Assembly as well as the Executive Director of UNICEF Ann Veneman and the Director of the Millennium Campaign Salil Shetty.

2005: Faith in Action: Working Toward the Millennium Development Goals-An action Toolkit for Religious Leaders and Communities. *Religions for Peace* with the support of the United Nations Millennium Campaign, created a toolkit in English, French, Spanish and Arabic; to engage religious leaders and their communities in developing countries in achieving the Millennium Development Goals.